

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT  
**Prusi Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SEN. PRUSI HELPS ENSURE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS**  
**FOR RETIRED NATIONAL STEEL WORKERS**

**LANSING** – Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) announced today that an agreement has been reached with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) to make health care benefits available for 3,000 retired National Steel employees. Due to the National Steel Corporation's declaration of bankruptcy, the company's retired employees were scheduled to lose their health care benefits as of Aug. 1.

"I'd like to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for stepping up to the plate and providing these men and women with the quality health care protection they deserve for a lifetime of hard work," Prusi said. "Losing health care coverage is something every retiree fears, and I'm very happy that we were able to reach a solution to make sure these seniors had no stoppage in their medical coverage."

Initially, retirees were going to have a gap in coverage from Aug. 1 to Oct. 1 due to logistic problems associated with developing a monthly billing system for the group, staff training, and information distribution with the federal government. However thanks to actions taken by Sen. Prusi, the Granholm administration, and BCBSM, the health care insurer has set up a temporary program to provide benefits until a permanent process comes online this fall. Retirees' health care benefits will stay the same while the billing system is established.

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.